

SOME NOTABLE BUTTERFLY RECORDS FROM GREECE IN 1992 AND 1995

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DURING TRAVELS IN Greece between 19 July to 3 August 1992 and 3 July to 17 July 1995 (Fig. 1), 114 species of butterflies were seen. As the butterfly fauna of Greece has been well recorded (Gaskin, 1996), only the most notable of these species are listed here. These include species which were rare or less easy to identify. An asterisk (*) next to a species indicates that identification was confirmed by examination of male genitalia. Species are listed in alphabetical order within family groups. Butterflies appeared to be most active between 10.00 and 12.00 hours. The greatest diversities and abundances of butterfly species were found in wet areas, especially near streams in the mountains. Altitudes at which butterflies are recorded on Mount Chelmos in the current list are generally c.200-300 metres lower than the more accurate altitudes estimated for the same areas by Leestmans & Arheilger (1987).

List of species

Papilionidae

Zerynthia cerisyi Stichel. Wet stream valley, Mt Falakro at 600m, a single worn female.

Parnassius apollo L. Mount Olympus, North Pindos Mts. Locally common above 1000m. Females seen in the North Pindos were large and brightly marked with red (f. *rhodopensis* Markovic?).

*P. mnemosyne athene** Stichel. Mt Chelmos, Mount Parnassos. Males and females (unmated and mated with a sphragis) locally common above 1000m in pine forest and sub-alpine pasture. Specimens from North Pindos Mts and Mt Veluchi were larger than those from Mt Chelmos and the chain of white spots in the grey marginal area of the upper forewing was reduced or absent (*mnemosyne mnemosyne* L.).

Pieridae

Colias aurorina heldreichii Staudinger. Males and females locally common on Mt Chelmos, Mt Parnassos and Mt Veluchi (including white females f. *fountaineae*) above 1000m in pine forest and sub-alpine pasture.

Nymphalidae

Boloria graeca graeca Staudinger. Mt Veluchi. Males and females common on stony sub-alpine pasture above 1500m. Specimens from this region were larger and had blacker and brighter orange wing colours than specimens from Mt Falakro (Wakeham-Dawson, 1995). Specimens from Mt Falakro were probably *graeca balcanica* Rebel (van der Poorten, 1982).

Brenthis hecaë D.&S. Mt Falakro, Mt Olympus, North Pindos Mts. A few worn females in meadows above 1000m.

*Mellicta athalia** Rott. North Pindos Mts. A few worn males in a flowery roadside above 1000m.

Satyridae

*Coenonympha rhodopensis** Elwes. Mount Falakro in a pine forest clearing at 1400m, a single male.

Erebia medusa medusa D. & S. Locally common on Mt Olympus, and Mt Falakro in pine forest clearings at 1400m.

E. ottomana bulgarica Drenowski. Common on rocky sub-alpine slopes on Mt Veluchi above 1500m, but only males (very fresh) seen.

*Hipparchia volgensis delattini** Kudrna. Mt Chelmos. A few fresh males and females resting on tree trunks in pine forest at <900m, with wings closed.

*Neohipparchia fatua** Freyer. South Peleponnesos. Locally common at sea level, resting on tree trunks with wings closed.

*Pseudochazara anthelea amalthea** Frivaldsky. Mt Chelmos, Mt Parnassos. Males and females common at c.1000m, flying among pine trees and resting on the ground with wings closed.

*P. graeca graeca** Staudinger. Mt Chelmos. Common above 1300m, but fresh males only, flying close to the ground and resting on rocks with wings closed.

*P. mniszechii tisiphone** Brown (= *cingovskii tisiphone* Brown). Mt Smolikas, barren rocky slopes near pine forests at c.1000m. Five fresh males and one female, feeding on flowers.

Lycaenidae

*Agrodiaetus admetus** Esper. Below 1000m. Mt Chelmos region, Taygetos Mts, Mt Parnassos, Mt Veluchi. Males and females locally common in arid areas and less common in mountain meadows to 1300m, often resting in or beneath scrub bushes during the hottest parts of the day. Specimens fresh.

*A. amanda** Schneider. Mt Chelmos, Mt Olympus, Mt Parnassos, Mt Smolikas. Males and females locally common in mountain meadows to c.1000m. Specimens worn.

*A. aroaniensis** Brown. North Peleponnesos. Males locally common in arid areas, only one female seen. Specimens fresh.

*A. damon** D. & S. Small colony (males only, specimens very fresh) in herb-rich pasture c.1500m, Mt Veluchi.

*A. escheri dalmaticus** Speyer. Mt Falakro, Mt Parnassos, North Pindos Mts. Males and females uncommon in mountain meadows to c.1000m.

A. iphigenia nonacriensis Brown. Despite a close search to 1500m on Mt Chelmos in 1992 and 1995, this species was *not* found.

*A. pelopi** Brown. Taygetos Mts, Mt Chelmos, Mt Parnassos, Mt Veluchi, North Pindos Mts. Males and females very common in hot, arid areas and mountain meadows to 1500m. On a wet day, fresh males and females were observed roosting on mint (*Mentha* sp.?) plants along a ski-road through pine woods at 1500mm on Mt Parnassos. The *pelopi* were roosting with their heads downwards and there was generally only one butterfly per plant. In areas below 1000m near Mt Chelmos, *pelopi*, *admetus* and *aroaniensis* were observed flying together.

*A. thersites** Cantener. Widespread and common at low level.

Aricia anteros Freyer. Mt Veluchi. A single male in herb-rich pasture at c.1500m.

*A. artaxerxes allous** Geyer. Parnon Mts where the species was uncommon in dry, rocky meadows at c.1000m. Mount Veluchi where the species was common in meadows above 1500m. Orange markings were completely absent from the upper surfaces of the forewings in males and females from both areas.

Heodes ottomanus Lefebvre. One male by a stream below 1000m near Kalavryta and one male near a stream at 1300m on Mount Chelmos.

Iolana iolas Ochsenheimer. Mt Parnassos, larvae in seedpods of *Colutea arborescens* L.

*Lycaeides idas idas** L. Mt Parnassos. A single male in sub-alpine pasture above 1500m.

*L. idas magnagraeca** Verity. Mt Olympus, North Pindos Mts in grassy areas at c.1000m. Genitalia similar to *idas idas*, but wings larger and more purple with broader black margins. Common. The *idas* recorded from north-east Greece (Wakeham-Dawson, 1995) were *idas magnagraeca*.

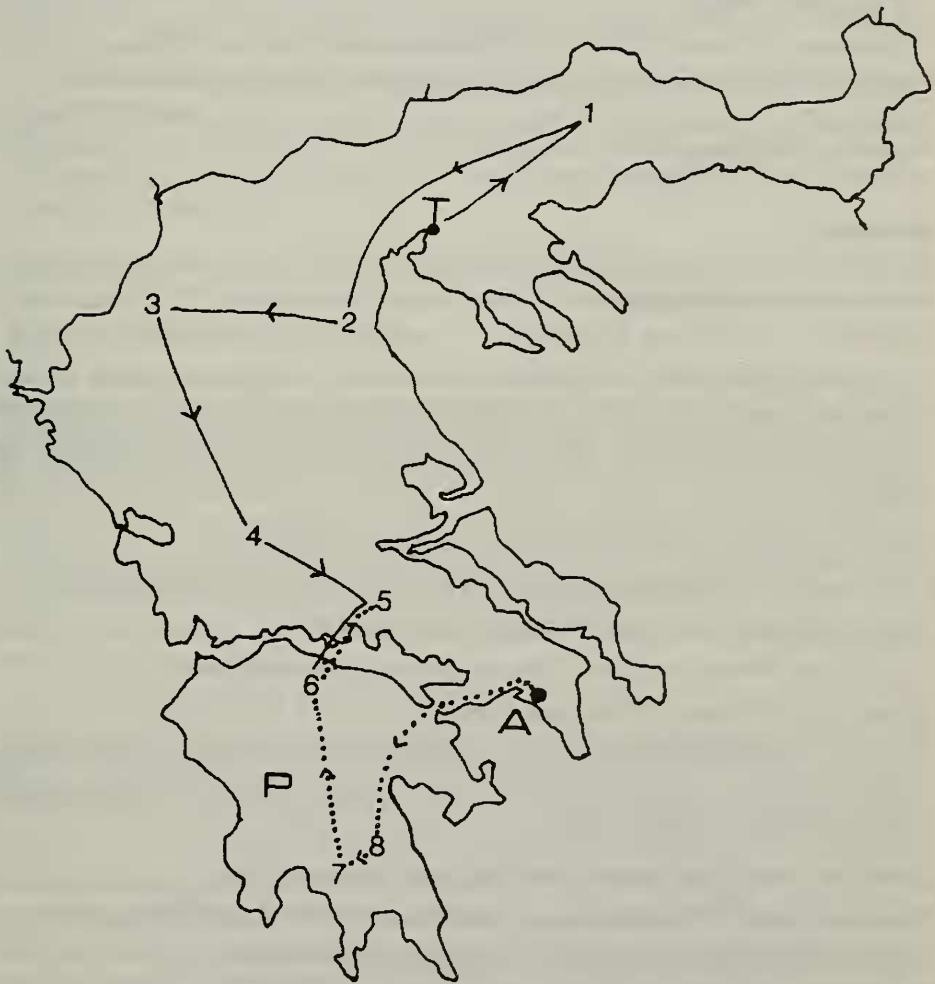


Fig. 1. Areas surveyed for butterflies in Greece in July 1992 (dotted line shows route of travel) and July 1995 (solid line shows route of travel).

A, Athens; P, Peloponnesos; T, Thessalonika.

1. Mount Falakro; 2. Mt Olympus; 3. North Pindos Mts (inc. Mt Smolikis); 4. Mt Veluchi (= Mt Timphristos); 5. Mt Parnassos; 6. Mt Chelmos (Aroanian Mts), 7. Taygetos Mts; 8. Parnon Mts.

Lycaena dispar rutila Werneburg. A single worn male (probably first brood), wet stream valley, Mt Falakro at 600m. Fresh second brood specimens of this species were found in the same location in late July 1994 (Wakeham-Dawson, 1995).

Lysandra bellargus Rott. Mt Chelmos, a few males c.1000m.

L. coridon Poda. Mt Parnassos, a single male c.1000m.

Maculinea arion L. Wet stream valley, Mt Falakro at 600m, a single male.

*Plebejus argus** L. Mt Chelmos, Mt Falakro, Mt Veluchi. Locally very common, especially at higher altitudes.

*P. pylaon brethertoni** Brown. Mt Chelmos, Mt Veluchi. Locally common above 1000m in mountain meadows.

Polyommatus eros menelaos Brown. Mt Chelmos, a single male at c.1300m.

Pseudophilotes bavius casimiri Hemming. Mt Chelmos, a single female at 1300m.

Thersamonia thersamon Esper. A single female by a stream near Kalavryta (c.750m) at the base of Mt Chelmos.

Hesperiidae

These species were generally found in grassy areas and were easy to overlook because of their small size and rapid flight.

*Carcharodus alceae** Esper. Widespread.

*C. orientalis** Reverdin. Mt Chelmos, Mt Veluchi. Locally common c.1000m. Specimens found on these two mountains were much browner than grey specimens from north-east Greece in May (Wakeham-Dawson, 1996). The browner July specimens were superficially similar to *C. lavatherae* Esper on the uppersides of the wings.

*C. focciferus** Zeller. North Pindos Mts. A single male c.1000m.

Erynnis tages L. Mt Chelmos region, North Pindos Mts. Widespread and common.

*Pyrgus armoricanus** Oberthur. Widespread and common.

P. sidae Esper. North Pindos Mts. A few specimens c1000m, very worn.

*Spialia orbifer** Hübner. Mt Parnassos. Common.

*S. phlomidis** Herrich-Schäffer. Mt Chelmos, North Pindos Mts. Common above 1000m.

*Syrichtus proto** Ochsenheimer. Mt Chelmos region, Parnon Mts, Taygetos Mts. Common between 700 and 1500m.

*Thymelicus acteon** Rott. North Pindos Mts, a single male c.1000m.

T. sylvestris Poda. Mt Chelmos region, North Pindos Mts, Mt Veluchi. Widespread.

T. lineola Ochsenheimer. Mt Veluchi. A single male above 1000m.

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The arrival of *Phyllonorycter platani* and *P. leucographella* (Lep.: Gracillariidae) in Reading

I have been looking out for *Phyllonorycter platani* (Stgdr.) and for *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Zell.) in my local area since finding mines of the former in London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*, at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society at South Kensington, London on 22 October 1994, and of the latter in firethorn *Pyracantha* sp. in my parents' garden at Wickford in Essex on 22 April 1989 (about two weeks after its discovery in this area by M. Emmet, although for some time I believed the moths I reared from these pod-like mines to be unusual varieties of *P. corylifoliella* (Hb.)).

At a field meeting I led at Ashley Hill Forest, Knowl Hill near Maidenhead, Berkshire on 27 October 1996 I heard rumour that both these species had been seen that year in the Reading area. Subsequently I discovered the unmistakable mines of *P. platani* in plane leaves on sapling trees outside the main train station in Reading on 5 January 1997. One leaf contained four mines, a second contained two. On arriving back at my house on the same day I noticed the characteristic early mines of *P. leucographella* over the mid-rib of three firethorn leaves on a bush growing at the end of my road. Since then, the number of mined leaves on this bush has increased to 15, despite the bush having been pruned by its owners in February. This exercise removed two of the three leaves noted as mined on 5 January.

I also noted mines of *P. platani* in plane leaves lying in the High Street of Marlow, Buckinghamshire on 14 December 1996, but have not seen evidence of this species yet in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (10 March 1997), despite looking for it.— I. SIMS, 2 The Delph, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 3AN.